



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-26. (Withdrawn)

Claim 27. (Previously presented) A flexible member holder, comprising:  
a tube,  
a shaft extending from the tube,  
a first tine at an end region of the shaft defining a first region for receiving a first portion  
of a loop of a flexible member,  
a second tine at the end region of the shaft defining a second region for receiving a  
second portion of the loop of the flexible member; and  
a tissue penetration device slidably received within the tube and configured to extend  
between the first and second regions.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 27 wherein the shaft extends  
distally from the tube.

Claim 29. (Original) The holder of claim 27 wherein each of the first and second  
regions comprises a groove.

Claims 30-36. (Cancelled)

Claim 37. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 27 further comprising a fixation  
member to which the flexible member is attached.

Claim 38. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 37 wherein the tissue penetration device is configured to receive the fixation member.

Claim 39. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 37 wherein the fixation member includes a cylindrical region received within the tissue penetration device.

Claim 40. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 37 wherein the fixation member includes a fin that extends through a slot of the tissue penetrating device.

Claim 41. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 37 wherein the fixation member includes holes for receiving the flexible member.

Claim 42. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 27 wherein the tissue penetrating device includes a slot.

Claim 43. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 27 wherein the tube defines a lumen through which the tissue penetration device is slidable received.

Claim 44. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 27 wherein the tissue penetrating device includes a needle.

Claim 45. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 27 wherein the tissue penetrating device includes a beveled tip.

Claim 46. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 27 further comprising a handle for advancing the tissue penetration device relative to the shaft.

Claim 47. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 27 wherein one or more of the tines is oriented along an axis that is different from a longitudinal axis of the tissue penetration device.

Claim 48. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 27 wherein one or more of the first and second portions of the flexible member loop is oriented along an axis that is different from a longitudinal axis of the tissue penetration device.

Claim 49. (Previously presented) A flexible member holder, comprising:  
a tube,  
a shaft extending from the tube and having:  
a first region for receiving a first portion of a loop of a flexible member,  
a second region for receiving a second portion of the loop of the flexible member;  
and  
a tissue penetration device slidably received within the tube and configured to extend between the first and second regions.

Claim 50. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 49 wherein the shaft extends distally from the tube.

Claim 51. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 49 wherein the tissue penetration device includes a needle.

Claim 52. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 49 wherein the tissue penetration device includes a beveled tip.

Claim 53. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 49 further comprising a handle for advancing the tissue penetration device relative to the shaft.

Claim 54. (Previously presented) The holder of claim 49 wherein one or more of the first and second portions of the flexible member loop is oriented along an axis that is different from a longitudinal axis of the tissue penetration device.

Claim 55. (Previously presented) A method of delivering an implant to body tissue, the method comprising:

positioning a first portion of a loop of a flexible member at a first region of a shaft that extends from a tube,

positioning a second portion of the loop of the flexible member at a second region of the shaft,

sliding a tissue penetration device through the tube such that the tissue penetrating device extends between the first and second regions of the shaft.

Claim 56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55 wherein positioning the first portion includes positioning the first portion of the loop at a first time at a first end region of the shaft, the first time defining the first region.

Claim 57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55 wherein positioning the second portion includes positioning the second portion of the loop at a second time at a second end region of the shaft, the second time defining the second region.

Claim 58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55 further comprising advancing the tissue penetration device through the body tissue.

Claim 59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58 further comprising retracting the tissue penetration device from the body tissue.

Claim 60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58 further comprising advancing the tissue penetration device such that the tissue penetrating device exits the body tissue at a surface of the tissue after the tissue penetration device has been advanced through the body tissue.

Claim 61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55 further comprising advancing the tissue penetration device through a tear in the body tissue.

Claim 62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55 further comprising positioning a fixation member in the tissue penetration device.

Claim 63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising attaching the flexible member to the fixation member.

Claim 64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 63 wherein extending the tissue penetration device includes extending the fixation member.

Claim 65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64 further comprising advancing the tissue penetration device through the body tissue such that the fixation member is advanced through and exits the body tissue at a tissue surface.

Claim 66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 65 further comprising retracting the tissue penetration device from the body tissue such that the fixation member remains at the tissue surface.

Claim 67. (New) The holder of claim 49 wherein the shaft extends distally from the tube along a shaft axis and the first and second regions extend along a distal plane that is acute with the shaft axis.

Claim 68. (New) The holder of claim 49 wherein the tube extends along a tube axis and the first and second regions extend along a distal plane that is 90 degrees or less from the tube axis.

Claim 69. (New) A flexible member holder, comprising:  
a tube,  
a shaft extending from the tube and having:  
a first region for receiving a first portion of a loop of a flexible member, and  
a second region for receiving a second portion of the loop of the flexible member;  
and  
a tissue penetrating elongate rigid member within the tube, the elongate rigid member being the sole elongate rigid member advanceable within the tube.

Claim 70. (New) The holder of claim 69 wherein the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member is configured to extend between the first and second regions.

Claim 71. (New) The holder of claim 69 further comprising a fixation member to which the flexible member is attached.

Claim 72. (New) The holder of claim 71 wherein the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member is configured to receive the fixation member.

Claim 73. (New) The holder of claim 71 wherein the fixation member includes a cylindrical region received within the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member.

Claim 74. (New) The holder of claim 71 wherein the fixation member includes a fin that extends through a slot of the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member.

Claim 75. (New) The holder of claim 71 wherein the fixation member includes holes for receiving the flexible member.

Claim 76. (New) The holder of claim 69 wherein the tube defines a lumen through which the tissue penetration device is advanceable.

Claim 77. (New) The holder of claim 69 wherein the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member includes a needle.

Claim 78. (New) The holder of claim 69 wherein the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member includes a beveled tip.

Claim 79. (New) The holder of claim 69 further comprising a handle for advancing the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member within the tube.

Claim 80. (New) A flexible member holder, comprising:  
a tube,  
a shaft extending from the tube, and  
a tissue penetrating elongate rigid member within the tube, the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member being the sole elongate rigid member advanceable within the tube,  
wherein the shaft includes a distal portion with formations for receiving a flexible member and defining an opening for receiving the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member.

Claim 81. (New) The holder of claim 80 wherein the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member is configured to extend through the opening.

Claim 82. (New) The holder of claim 80 further comprising a fixation member to which the flexible member is attached.

Claim 83. (New) The holder of claim 82 wherein the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member is configured to receive the fixation member.

Claim 84. (New) The holder of claim 82 wherein the fixation member includes a cylindrical region received within the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member.

Claim 85. (New) The holder of claim 82 wherein the fixation member includes a fin that extends through a slot of the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member.

Claim 86. (New) The holder of claim 82 wherein the fixation member includes holes for receiving the flexible member.

Claim 87. (New) The holder of claim 80 wherein the tube defines a lumen through which the tissue penetration device is advanceable.

Claim 88. (New) The holder of claim 80 wherein the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member includes a needle.

Claim 89. (New) The holder of claim 80 wherein the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member includes a beveled tip.

Claim 90. (New) The holder of claim 80 further comprising a handle for advancing the tissue penetrating elongate rigid member within the tube.



Claim 91. (New) A method of delivering an implant to body tissue, the method comprising:

positioning a first portion of a loop of a flexible member at a first region of a shaft that extends from a tube,

positioning a second portion of the loop of the flexible member at a second region of the shaft,

advancing an elongate rigid member through the tube, the elongate rigid member being the only elongate rigid member advanceable within the tube, and

piercing tissue with the elongate rigid member.

Claim 92. (New) The method of claim 91 further comprising extending the elongate rigid member between the first and second regions of the shaft.

Claim 93. (New) A method of delivering an implant to body tissue, the method comprising:

positioning a flexible member at formations of a distal portion of a shaft extending from a tube to define an opening,

advancing an elongate rigid member through the tube, the elongate rigid member being the only elongate rigid member advanceable within the tube, and

piercing tissue with the elongate rigid member.

Claim 94. (New) The method of claim 93 further comprising extending the elongate rigid member through the opening.